

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 18674 141630Z
ACTION NODS-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 18674

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS
LAGOS FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM FROM DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH NI
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO OBASANJO

REF: (A) LAGOS 13157, (B) STATE 272034

1. WE ACCEPT MANY OF THE POINTS MADE IN YOUR REFTEL
ABOUT THE MEETING WITH OBASANJO. SINCE OUR INSTRUCTION
WAS PREPARED, SPAIN HAS SEEN NYERERE, WHO REAFFIRMED

HIS FIRM SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE.
NYERERE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH MACHEL AND
REPORTED THAT MACHEL IS OF THE SAME VIEW. AS A RESULT,
WE CONSIDER IT IS LESS IMPORTANT TO ASK OBASANJO TO
WEIGH IN WITH NYERERE AT THIS TIME.

2. THIS STILL LEAVES GARBA NERVOUS ABOUT SUPPORTING
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OUR INITIATIVE. BELIEVE THIS CAN BE HANDLED THROUGH
THE MEETINGS ANDY AND JIM LEONARD ALREADY HAD WITH HIM.
DAVID OWEN HAS ALSO HAD A STRONG GO AT HIM IN THE SAME
VEIN. NEVERTHELESS, GARBA'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH
THE SECRETARY IS VERY IMPORTANT. THEREFORE, HOPE THAT
A MEETING HAS NOW BEEN SCHEDULED--I STRONGLY RECOMMEND
IT--AND THAT ON THAT OCCASION GARBA WILL BE REASSURED

AND STRENGTHENED IN HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE BACKING OUR EFFORTS. AT SAME TIME THE SECRETARY CAN DEAL WITH GARBA ON THE QUESTION WHICH YOU HAVE RAISED ABOUT MECHANICS OF CONTACT WITH OBASANJO.

3. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT IF YOU SEE OBASANJO ON THE OTHER MATTER, YOU SHOULD HANDLE THE RHODESIAN MATTER AS FOLLOWS:

A) WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NYERERE FOLLOWING A MEETING HE HAD WITH MACHEL. BOTH ARE FIRM IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS AND SPECIFICALLY FOR HOLDING ELECTIONS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE.

B) OUR FEELING IS THAT WE MUST PUSH AHEAD VIGOROUSLY SINCE WE NOW HAVE ACHIEVED A BROAD AREA OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMMON GROUND ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL.

C) DICK MOOSE IS MEETING WITH BRITISH IN LONDON TO WORK OUT NEXT STEPS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT OUR PLANS AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH YOU AS SOON AS THE SPECIFICS ARE WORKED OUT. WE BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME FOR VIGOROUS AND PROMPT ACTION.

4. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY BRIEF OBASANJO ON KAUNDA'S ACTION AND HIS MEETINGS WITH LORD CARVER. (FYI: DAVID OWEN GAVE GARBA CHAPTER AND VERSE ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN HE SAW HIM HERE, INCLUDING FACT THAT NKOMO
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ALREADY HAD A PLANE RESERVATION TO LEAVE FOR MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS MEETING WITH CARVER THUS INDICATING THAT HE HAD NO SERIOUS INTENTION OF ENGAGING IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE.)

STREATOR

SECRET

NNN

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